



The ASIFA Central Board



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&

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With Free-Range Board Members

Deanna Morse

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Michael Long

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Welcome to ASIFA Central! We are the Midwest - US chapter of ASIFA, the oldest organization of animators **in the world**. This chapter was established in 1975.

The board members volunteer have many responsibilities - social media coordinators, retreat co-organizers, web updaters, ani-jam facilitators, party planners, inveterate and unrepentant doodlers, and **more**.

They also work at the front line for this Midwest animation chapter and are in frequent (now practically simultaneous) contact with the International ASIFA board.

ASIFA CENTRAL ONLINE RETREAT COMETH

"Re-FRAME by FRAME"

JULY 15 AND 16, 2022 (MMXXII for Latin Lovers)



The schedule for the upcoming retreat has been outlined (and may be subject to change between now and July 15) - so RSVP to secure your ZOOM seat to the ride of a weekend!

RSVP to asifacentralretreat@gmail.com

Friday, July 15th, 2022 - Keynote Presentation featuring Lisa Barcy at 7pm
Q&A afterwards to approximately 9pm with an After Party in THE INTERACTIVE ROOM

Saturday, July 16th, 2022

Before 10AM - Wake up! Wake up! Feed the cat! Let out the dog! Shake off the bedhead! Eat that toast! Chew each mouthful! Brew that coffee!!!

10AM - Introductions/Chat

11AM - 12PM - 5 Minute Lightning Talks - descriptions will be ever-evolving, and if you want to play, add your name with the RSVP request! Topics thus far will include:

IAD Student Presentation - Interlochen Animation Program Development - ASIFA Central and International News - the phenomenal bibliography project of ANIMATION

1PM - 2PM - Hands on Workshop - they mysteries of Loom - (requires some pre-preparation on the part of the participants, as in go out to LOOOM and get the software - it may be a challenge to non iPad users, but work-arounds are being explored even as these words are typey typed typed out)

2PM - 3PM - Animator Talk - 15 Minutes - to include so far: Gary Schwartz on the making of *The Crown Nobody Wanted* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNhy897qAMU>,

Updates from Chris Sullivan - Michael Long - Jim Middleton (time slots available!)

3PM - 5PM - Hands on Workshop

CUT OUT ANIMATION / STOP MOTION PRO - STOP MOTION STUDIO

Unexpected Juxtaposition - Exquisite Corpse - Poetry Jam (results to be shown from 6-9pm)

6pm-9pm Share your work, discoveries, or projects for 10 minutes - description TBD (time slots available!)

RE-FRAME-BY-FRAME

CELEBRATING THE ART OF ANIMATION RETREAT . . .



July 15th 7pm - 9pm & July 16th 10am - 9pm
Animation Workshops, Screenings, Inspiration & Networking
RSVP @ asifacentralretreat@gmail.com for Zoom Link
Keynote Animator Lisa Barcy
Friday, July 15th at 7pm!

DEANNA MORSE - NEW ASIFA INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT!



A new executive board has been elected for the next three years for ASIFA International. The founders envisioned a world of peace and dialogue to settle our differences, with the art of animation creating a bridge among different cultures and ideologies.

The new executive board is broadly international:

Deanna Morse, President (USA)
Anastasia Dimitra, Vice President (Hellas/Greece)
Mohamed Ghazala, Vice President (Egypt)
Johnchill Lee, Vice President (China)
Annegret Richter, Vice President (Germany)
Stefan Stratil, Treasurer (Austria)
Thomas Renoldner, Secretary General (Austria)



Deanna Morse, portrait by K. Lynn Smith, suitable for framing

Deanna Morse is an independent experimental animation artist, with films for Sesame Street, and pieces in permanent collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and an emerita faculty member, Grand Valley State University. A former ASIFA International Vice President, she currently lives in Southern Oregon and remains invaluablely active in the ASIFA Central chapter.

Anastasia Dimitra is an animation professor and director, with many awards and international screenings. She has written books and papers concerning the art of animation, and has been a jury member on several international animation festivals. She is very active in ASIFA Hellas, and has served ASIFA International as the Coordinator of the 60th Anniversary Celebration and treasurer.

Mohamed Ghazala, with Ph.D in animation, is currently the chair of Cinematic Arts school in Effat University, KSA. He is also award-winning animation director. His

main research interest is in documenting the animated practices in Africa. He served ASIFA International as a Vice President.

Johnchill Lee with a Ph.D. in Digital Media Communications, has a diverse background in animation, education, new technologies, and the industry of animation. He is President of Beijing Digital Creativity Industry Association, the Secretary General of ASIFA China, and a former Vice President of ASIFA.

Annegret Richter, with a Ph.D in animated documentary, with a background in Communication and Media Studies. She was a festival director at the International Short Film Festival in Dresden, and International Leipzig Festival of Documentary and Animated Films. She has worked as a director in the Communication department for ASIFA.


Stefan Stratil is the current treasurer of ASIFA, and President of ASIFA Austria since 2004. A curator and lecturer, with an education in experimental design-animation, he has created comic strips and short commercials for TV and cinema.

Thomas Renoldner is an artist, curator, lecturer. Vice President Communication of ASIFA for the last six years, he has served as a juror and presenter at many international film festivals and is a multiple award-winning filmmaker.

<https://www.asifa.net>

MORSE'S 1989 FILM "PLANTS" MAKES A COMEBACK



 Deanna Morse reports an interesting increase in interest in her early 3D animation project, "Plants" from 1989. <https://vimeo.com/75121003>

This seems to be on the heels of the interest in a "retro" computer style of several festival films when 1985's *Money for Nothing* computer graphics was "State of the Art." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTP2RUD_cL0 (although Mick Jagger's "Hard Woman" pushed the limits of early hard drives the same year: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8btm2els8kM>)

(An example of the current retro look can be seen in the bittersweet story of "Marona's Fantastic Tale" from 2019.)

It also may be due to individual animators wanting to explore using the CGI style without having to involve hundreds of trained specialists to build a homogenized virtual reality. Imagined reality can often be best expressed by a committee of one.



Upcoming OIAF-2022 Will Again Include ASIFA Discounts!!!

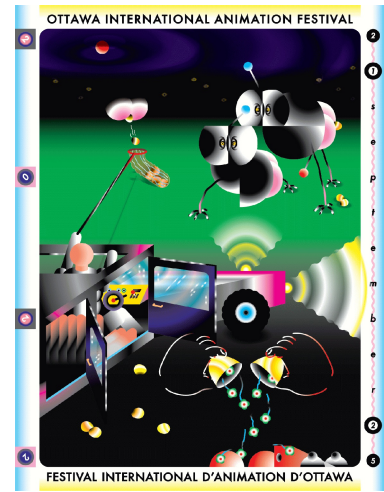
The Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF) is one of the world's leading animation events providing showings, exhibits, workshops and entertainment since 1976. Attracting artists, producers, students and animation fans from around the globe, the OIAF brings together art and industry to experience world-class animated works.

This year's in person only OIAF runs from September 21 to September 25.

Amy Kravitz, the inspiring teacher from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and creator of animated visual poetry, will serve as this year's honorary president.

And - **AND** - ASIFA members get a discount on festival passes! So go, already! Get a room with some laundry facilities and save even more time packing! It's all about the savings! ASIFA Central will be sending a verified list of eligible members to Ottawa for the discounts - and maybe some recipes for *BBQ hotwing poutine*...

<https://www.animationfestival.ca/>



Well, the release from lockdown has had its effect in Canada!

End of QuickTime Software Support and Functionality

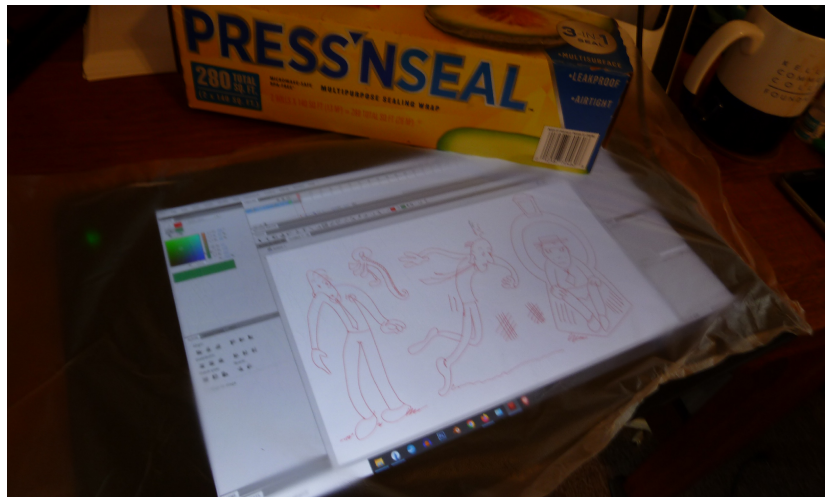


First went Netscape, then Internet Explorer did a dumpster dive, but beneath the radar, support for the long-popular Quicktime player also ended this year. This means if you have a copy of Quicktime Pro and want to install it on a different computer, the registration key will no longer be recognized, nor will it play *.mov files. In addition, if you have been using the Quicktime platform to convert films from or to different formats, notably the old *.fla files from the proto-Flash days, you will lose that level of access to your early animation files. Registered, functioning copies of Quicktime on existing computers still work at this point, so if you have a laptop or desktop with a functional Quicktime on it, this is the time to get your old files converted to jpgs or other formats that can still be read by video editors. Your humbl typst is racing to get several dozen short experiments from the late 1990s into an archival format for future use.

Making Your Smoooooth Tablet Behave Like Paper - a Home Hack Experiment

The best thing about a digital tablet is getting your vision into a digital form while still having the sense of drawing. However, the effect is muted when the drawing surface is a frictionless and smooth. Some manufacturers have made a "paper feel" screen that gives the stylus some resistance while skimming the surface, and iPads have an applique that can fit atop the screen - but these all come at a cost, and what about those with "fixed incomes" and only online resources? Well, here's a home experiment conducted by yr hmbl typst recently making use of a Huion Pro-16 digital tablet and some Press n Seal cling wrap.

The wrap has a slight texture and sticks to the screen without too much distortion of the tablet image. The act of drawing now has a slight bit of resistance, and the chronic problem of a little "hook" appearing whenever lifting the stylus seems to be remedied. It works for a couple of drawing sessions before it should be replaced, but it achieves the desired effect for pennies vs dollars. Yr hmbl typst is still checking whether any residue left behind affects subsequent use of the tablet, but thus far, it's doing pretty well. The example in the photograph is while using - gasp - Flash CS5 from the pre-Cambrian period, and the plastic wasn't cut to size, which is what will happen in subsequent experiments. No doubt it violates some "proper use" warranty for the tablet, but that's the risk one takes in the name of SCIENCE! Ok, in the name of CHEAPSKATE!



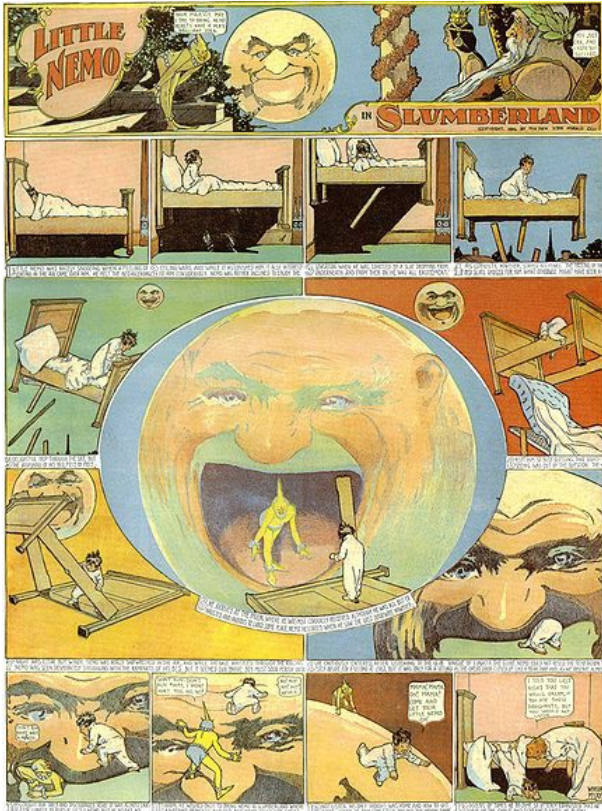
The consequences of caffeine and late night curiosity...

Little Nemo Reappearing in Games and Graphics

Our humble typist, keeping his Edmorian roots saturated in the soil where once trod the parents, sister, and uncle of Winsor McCay, just can't get enough of every new project that emerges, or any online reference that can be derived from, the genius of that human who could fill pages for the Hearst papers – and make even the vapid prattle of Arthur Brisbane *look* interesting.

<http://www.panelpatter.com/2015/08/perchance-to-dream-in-little-nemos-big.html> - will bring you to “Little Nemo’s Big New Dreams,” and “Return to Slumberland” reviews, that somehow slipped past my eyes seven years ago (drat those staff meetings - DRAT!), and a certain editorial cartoon of WWI vintage seems just as sobering as today’s headlines. So this brief newsletter will provide a few visuals celebrating the one, the only -

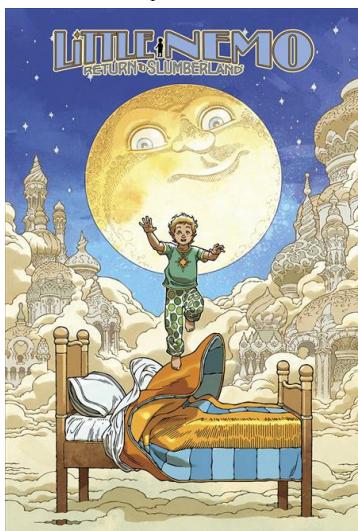
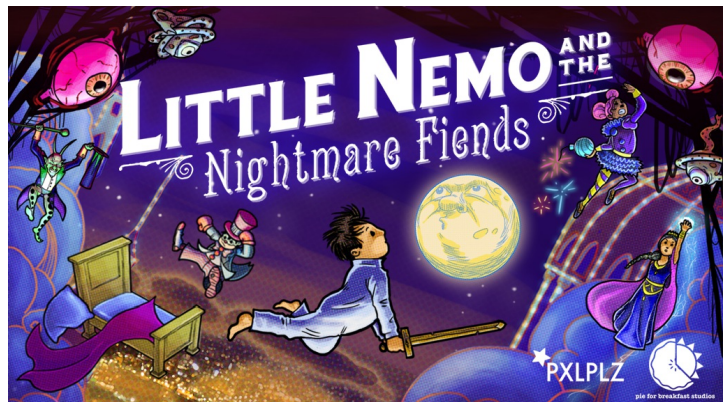
**WINSOR
MCCAY**



The inspirational Master



The Little Nemo computer game, featuring a familiar moon.



Little Nemo gets a manga treatment....

... and sadly, a McCay image that one could only wish were a transitory nightmare...





ASIFA Central Newsletter (cc) June, 2022, a quarterly-ish publication of ASIFA Central - see the updated website with more announcements **and an ever expanding newsletter archive** for ASIFA Central at - <https://asifa.org>

ANIMATION UNITES US

ASIFA Central On INSTAGRAM! Woot Woot! Make sure to check our newly created Instagram account:
<https://www.instagram.com/asifacentral/>

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And then dive into more digital fun at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/asifacentral>
 and for ASIFA International - <https://asifa.net> - be sure to check out the Facebook page on ANIZOOMATION

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As usual, send any suggestions, comments, or recipes for zucchini bread, along with the usual castigations to yr hmbl typist, at jim.middletonrx@gmail.com or, for dull bloggery, <https://animatingapothecary.blogspot.com>

ANIMATION UNITES US

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the hmbl typst and do not necessarily reflect the thoughts, opinions, or policies of anyone anywhere else, and especially at ASIFA Central, which is a completely volunteer-run, non-profit gathering of very busy and frantic members moving at 24fps on a slow day, where vacations are when you shoot on twos.

Press releases are always welcome!
 We encourage shameless self-promotion!

